

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on September 11, 2002, claims 87-91, 95-114, and 154-169 were pending. Claims 167 and 169 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 87, 154-156, 106, and 160-162 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,067,007, hereafter Kanji). Claims 96-97, 103-105 and 111 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanji. Claims 157 and 163 were objected to.

In this response, claims 166 and 168 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 87, 106, 155, 159, 167, and 169 have been amended. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 157 and 163. However, at this time, Applicant elects not to place the limitations of the allowed claims into their corresponding independent claims because Applicant respectfully believes that the revised independent claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 167 and 169 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs. In this response, claims 167 and 169 have been amended to overcome the rejections. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 87, 154-156, 106, and 160-162 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanji.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 87 includes limitations that are not disclosed or claimed by Kanji. In particular, claim 87 recites as follows:

87. (Five Times Amended) An electrical interconnection component comprising:
a resilient elongate element having a first end which is non-releasably fixed to a substrate and a second end which is free, said second end being a freestanding end; and
a contact tip structure structurally distinct from said resilient elongate element,
wherein said second end of said resilient elongate element is bonded to said contact tip structure.

(emphasis added)

Independent claim 87 includes a limitation of “a resilient elongate element having a first end which is non-releasably fixed to a substrate and a second end which is free, said second end being a freestanding end”, which is absent from Kanji. Applicant submits that Kanji fails to disclose a resilient elongate element having a fixed end non-releasably fixed to a substrate while the other end is a freestanding end (e.g., standing independently of attachment or support). In addition, the freestanding end is bonded to a contact tip structure structurally distinct from the resilient elongate element, which is also absent from Kanji.

Furthermore, the freestanding end of the resilient elongate is only non-releasably secured to another element (e.g., another substrate) when the resilient elongate element is conducting current as an electrical interconnection, as claimed in claims 167 and 169. This limitation is also absent from Kanji. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 87 is not anticipated by Kanji.

Similarly, independent claim 106 has been amended to include the limitation of “wherein said second end of the said resilient elongate element is a freestanding end”, thus for the reasons similar to those discussed above, independent claim 106 is not anticipated by Kanji. The rest of the claims depend from one of the independent claims 87 and 106, thus include all of the distinct limitations of the their respective independent claims, and therefore are not anticipated by Kanji. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 96-97, 103-105 and 111 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanji.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 96-97, 103-105, and 111 of the present application include limitations not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Kanji. As a result, claims 96-97, 103-105, and 111 are patentable over Kanji.

Specifically, as discussed above, independent claims 87 and 106 include a limitation of a resilient elongate element having a fixed end non-releasably fixed to a substrate and a freestanding end bonded to a structurally distinct contact tip structure. Kanji fails to teach, disclose, or suggest such limitation. Claims 96-97, 103-105, and 111 depend from one of the independent claims 87 and 106, thus include the distinct limitations of the independent claims 87 and 106, and therefore, for the reasons similar to those discussed above, are patentable over Kanji. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.


Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time to respond to the pending Office Action, and a check for the extension fee is enclosed.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 166 and 168 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 87, 106, 155, 159, 167, and 169 as indicated below.

87. (Five Times Amended) An electrical interconnection component comprising:
a resilient elongate element having a first end which is non-releasably fixed to a substrate and a second end which is free, said second end being a freestanding end; and
a contact tip structure structurally distinct from said resilient elongate element, [an]
wherein said second end of said resilient elongate element is bonded to said
contact tip structure.

106. (Five Times Amended) An electronics assembly comprising:
a substrate;
a resilient elongate element having a first end secured to the substrate; and
a contact tip structure, structurally distinct from said resilient elongate element, a
second end of said resilient elongate element being bonded to said contact tip
structure, wherein said second end of the said resilient elongate element is a freestanding end.

155. (Amended) The electrical interconnection component of claim 154, wherein said second
end of said resilient elongate element is bonded to a surface of said pad.

159. (Amended) The electrical interconnection component of claim 87, wherein said resilient elongate element comprises a wire, and said second end of said resilient elongate element is wire bonded to said contact tip structure.

166. (Cancelled) The electronic interconnection component of claim 87, wherein said resilient elongate element is a freestanding element.

167. (Amended) The electronic interconnection component of claim 87, wherein said contact tip structure is non-releasably secured only to [said end of the resilient elongate element] another element when the resilient elongate element is conducting current as an electrical interconnection.

168. (Cancelled) The electronic assembly of claim 106, wherein said resilient elongate element is a freestanding element.

169. (Amended) The electronic assembly of claim 106, wherein said contact tip structure is non-releasably secured only to [said second end of the resilient elongate element] another element when the resilient elongate element is conducting current as an electrical interconnection.